



[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com)

# The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



## Illinois electric cooperatives electrify villages in Bolivia

**E**ric Dewitt, a lineman for McDonough Power, was one of 12 volunteers from nine Illinois electric cooperatives that brought electricity to four villages in Bolivia. The linemen spent three weeks in March in Bolivia constructing almost 30 kilometers of power lines and installed 21 transformers. Two schools and a facility for handicapped individuals were electrified.

Dewitt said that this experience was life changing and that he would do it again. "We take electricity for granted in the states. It is hard to image a world where electricity does not exist. The Bolivian people were very excited and grateful to finally receive electricity. The children said they will be able to do their school work after dark because now they have a light," Dewitt stated.

"These three weeks in Bolivia were a life changer," said Matt Eisenmenger, safety instructor for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). "Not only do I have a newfound appreciation for the blessings and opportunities we have here at home, but I'm also optimistic about the future of the villages we illuminated. I was honored to have the opportunity to power and empower the people, and it's an experience I'll long remember."

*Continued on 18d ►*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Closed for  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
Tuesday  
★ FOURTH OF JULY ★



1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352  
Macomb, Illinois  
61455-0352

309-833-2101

[www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com)

Office hours:  
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays



## DIRECTORS

Jeff Moore, Chairman  
Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman  
Steve Youngquist, Secretary  
David Lueck, Treasurer  
Jerry Riggins  
Mike Cox  
Bob Dwyer  
Steve Hall  
Steve Lynn  
John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections



# Operation Round-Up Grants to Local Organizations

**M**cDonough Power Cooperative Operation Round-Up grants totaling \$8,000 were recently awarded to five area organizations.



- **Regional Office of Education #26**  
\$1,000 – Art Program Supplies for Alternative Education Program
- **Colchester Fire Protection District**  
\$2,000 – Turnout Gear for Firefighters
- **Wesley Village**  
\$2,000 – Kitchen Appliances for Pursuit of Home Project
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Warren and McDonough County**  
\$1,000 – Office Furniture and Supplies for new Bushnell Office
- **McDonough District Hospital Foundation**  
\$2,000 – Dolores Kator Switzer Women's Center 7211D6-112C

The Operation Round-Up program is funded by members of McDonough Power Cooperative who have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. The extra pennies are used to support community betterment projects. Since the initial round of funding in January 2016, the program has donated \$36,143.32 to local organizations. The next deadline to apply for an Operation Round-Up grant is July 3, 2017. For more details, visit [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com) or contact Kelly Hamm at 309-833-2101.



*Big Brothers Big Sisters of Warren and McDonough County*



*Regional Office of Education #26*



*Colchester Fire Protection District*



*Wesley Village*



# Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2017 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 6 at Chubby's in Macomb at 7:00 p.m. to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2017 annual meeting of members to be held August 22 at The Crossing in Macomb.

- **District 1** – (composed of the West half of Scotland Township and East half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): **Matt Bierman, 9365 N 950th Rd, Macomb.**
- **District 2** – (composed of all Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County): **Mike McMillan, 665 Invention Rd, Macomb.**
- **District 3** – (composed of all Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the West half of Chalmers Townships in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock Townships in Hancock County): **Kevin Kleinkopf, 5400 N 1300th Rd, Colchester. 61E6C3-168A**
- **District 4** – (composed of all Blandinsville, Sciota and Emmett Townships in McDonough County): **Matt Housewright, 301 Flint Rd, Macomb and Jay Cremer, 1 Indian Trail Rd, Macomb.**
- **District 5** – (composed of the East half of Scotland and all of New Salem, Eldorado and Mound Townships in McDonough County and part of Harris, Farmers and Vermont Townships in Fulton County): **Glenn Wilcoxon, 2520 E 2050th St, Vermont.**
- **District 6** – (composed of all Macomb, Walnut Grove, Bushnell and Prairie City Townships in McDonough County and part of Lee in Fulton County): **Laura Lant, 14725 N 1700th Rd, Good Hope and Katy Johnson, 13785 N 1500th Rd, Macomb.**

- **District 7** – (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in Henderson County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): **Connie Grant, 497 20th Ave, Roseville.**
- **District 8** – (composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County): **Frank Kane, 706 26th St, Roseville.**
- **District 9** – (composed of Kelly, Coldbrook, Floyd and Berwick Townships in Warren County and parts of Galesburg, Cedar and Indian Point Townships in Knox County): **Marc Hanson, 1347 200th Ave, Monmouth and Richard Sawyer, 2040 140th St, Cameron.**

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the Board of Directors may be made by (1) the Nominating Committee or, (2) a petition signed by 15 or more active members, the petition must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

Directors presently serving on our Board of Directors are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, Walter Lewis; District 4, David Lueck; District 5, Steven L. Lynn; District 6, Jeffrey N. Moore; District 7, Steve Hall; District 8, Robert Dwyer; and District 9, Steven Youngquist.

It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 days nor more than one hundred twenty days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected and one member from each of the other districts served by the cooperative. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office, at least thirty days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least one or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election.

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations.

Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least thirty days before the meeting.

Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot. **9226D6-317B**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

# Please make room for roadside crews

By Abby Berry

When the power goes out, so do McDonough Power's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow

down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

Scott's Law, also referred to as the "move over" law in Illinois, requires drivers to slow down or change lanes when driving by a stopped emergency vehicle. Beginning in 2017, the law also includes any vehicle on the side of the road with hazard lights flashing.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers,

firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways. **4120C1-1122C**

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## Illinois electric cooperatives electrify villages in Bolivia Continued from 18a ►

"Our linemen worked tirelessly in challenging environments for three weeks, and we're all proud to be part of such an important mission," said Duane Noland, AIEC president and CEO, who attended the celebration. "The co-op spirit of service and our commitment to our global community is alive and well, and we all welcome the opportunity to share our expertise with communities thousands of miles away who can now have a promising future."

A celebration was held on March 30 at the Lajas school and was attended by the entire crew, village leaders, the mayor of Samaipata and several board members of Cooperativa Rural de Electrificación (CRE), the Bolivian cooperative.

"This mission involved helping CRE, a Bolivian electric cooperative, to extend the electric service to these remote areas," said Phil Carson, NRECA Board president from Illinois who joined the team for the celebration. "NRECA has had a relationship with CRE that spans more than 50 years, and this work is a testament to our global commitment in helping expand access to reliable electricity to communities that were very much like ours 75 years ago."

The trip was sponsored by AIEC and managed and coordinated by NRECA International.

NRECA International, an affiliate of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has been working in developing countries since 1962. Today more than 300 member electric cooperatives support its work through monetary contributions, material donations, and sending hundreds of electric co-op linemen and employees abroad as volunteers.

Linemen and their respective cooperatives participating in the project were: Joseph Alexander and Ryan Little from Illinois Electric Cooperative; Timothy Baker and Bret Richards from Corn Belt Energy Corporation; Shannon Davis and Brannon Dasch from Tri-County Electric Cooperative; Eric Dewitt from McDonough Power Cooperative; Matt Eisenmenger from AIEC; William Fields, Jr. from Norris Electric Cooperative, Kurt Krohmer from Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc.; Terry Riggins from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative; and Troy Shafer from Menard Electric Cooperative.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national

service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states. NRECA International's 50-year global commitment has helped provide electricity to more than 120 million people in 43 countries.



**Member  
Prizes**

**Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.**